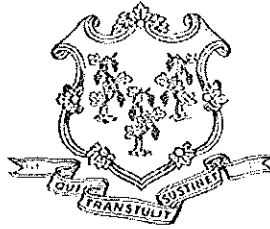


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**Testimony of Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff in Support of Senate
Bill 3
AAC The Licensing of New and Used Car Dealers
Transportation Committee
March 2, 2016**

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, the reason I am submitting testimony today is simple - Connecticut needs to do everything in its power to continue to grow, expand and nurture a thriving business climate.

The proposal you're debating gives us a clear opportunity to do just that, to say once and for all that Connecticut is a place that embraces change and innovation. Electric car companies are working hard to transform how we move our world. And they aren't looking for a handout. All they're asking for is an opportunity to invest in Connecticut, an investment that will generate \$8 million to \$10 million in economic activity annually and create up to twenty-five new jobs with good salaries and benefits.

Electric vehicles are a critical component of meeting the state's high standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Just a few weeks ago, the Governor signed on to a sixteen state accord that crosses party lines and sets the clear goal of increasing the amount of electric vehicles on the road. Why don't we show our commitment right now by passing this bill this session?

This isn't a proposal where we have to wait to see the benefits in five, ten or twenty years. Yes, there are benefits in the long term, but we also have tangible goals that we can realize right now. As an example of the demand, there are already more than 1,000 Tesla vehicles registered in the state. That number will only grow if we make it easier to buy an electric vehicle right here in Connecticut.

We should let this technology become part of the Connecticut landscape and in turn, pave the way for many future pioneers across all sectors to come to Connecticut and thrive within our business community. The demand is there. Let's just acknowledge it.